

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 20-27, 31, 33-48, 52-61, 65-76, and 81-88 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 20-23, 25, 26, 31, 47, 52, 54-61, 67, 69, 70-74, 75-77, 80, 81, and 83-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,410,326 to Goldstein in view of U.S. patent 5,996,028 to Niimi et al. (hereinafter "Niimi"). Claims 24, 27, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Goldstein in view of Niimi and further in view of U.S. patent 5,917,915 to Hirose.

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to make a minor clarification. Specifically, independent claim 1 now clarifies that the memory stores at least a portion of the additional information, the memory including a detachable IC memory card, based on a "user controlled input". The other independent claims are similarly amended.

According to the features set forth in the claims as currently written, the control device includes a memory, which includes a detachable IC memory card, in which information can be stored based on the user controlled output. The information stored in the memory is information received by a receiver and transmitted by an electric apparatus. Further, in the claimed features an erasing unit can delete the information that is stored in the memory based on a user controlled input.

Applicants first note that the feature of the memory storing the information in a detachable IC memory card based on the user controlled input is supported for example by Figure 12 in the present Specification at step S54.

The claims provide a control device and method that can set up an interactive operation between a remote control unit 1, and with reference to Figure 1 in the present Specification as a non-limiting example, that includes its own detachable IC card 2 and an electronic apparatus that the remote controller 1 can control. In the claims as currently written the remote controller 1 can receive information from the electronic apparatus it is controlling, and that received information can be stored onto the detachable IC memory card 2. One specific non-limiting example discussed in the present specification is that coupon information can be provided from the electronic apparatus to the remote controller 1 and then selectively stored into the detachable IC memory card 2. With such a structure a user of the remote controller 1 can remove the IC card 2 from the remote controller 1 and bring the IC card 2 in which the coupon information is recorded to a store and can purchase an item and have the price lowered by the value of the coupon. Such subject matter is also discussed in the present Specification in the paragraph bridging pages 31 and 32. The above-noted operation made possible by the claimed invention is believed to clearly reflect how the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

The outstanding Office Action is first deficient in that the reliance on Goldstein misconstrues certain features disclosed in Goldstein. The outstanding Office Action recognizes that Goldstein fails to teach a detachable IC memory card and an erasing unit for deleting the information stored in the memory based on the user controlled input. The outstanding Office Action then cites the teachings in Niimi to disclose such features.¹

However, the Office Action is also believed to be improper in not recognizing other deficiencies in Goldstein and misinterpreting certain features in Goldstein.

¹ Office Action of December 8, 2003, page 3, lines 12-17.

One basis for the outstanding rejection relies on Goldstein disclosing a memory, for example elements 488 or 490 of Figure 20, and storing information therein directed to favorite channel information.²

However, that reliance on the teachings of Goldstein is believed to misconstrue the teachings in Goldstein relative to the claimed inventions.

More specifically, in the claims the information stored in the detachable IC memory card is information received from the electronic apparatus that the controller can control. That is not the case with respect to the favorite channel information in Goldstein. More specifically, the favorite channel information in Goldstein is not received from a device that a control device can control, but instead is only generated internally in the remote control device. More particularly, Goldstein discloses an operation of recording favorite channel information "by monitoring keypad selections 470 of the touch-sensitive screen 10 in a particular mode of interest".³ Thus, in Goldstein the favorite channel information is not information received from an electronic apparatus that the controller is controlling, but instead is only based on monitoring keypad selections on the remote controller itself. In that way Goldstein clearly differs from the claims as currently written, and in that way the outstanding Office Action is misconstruing the teachings of Goldstein relative to the claims as currently written.

Moreover, no teachings in Niimi can overcome the above-noted recognized deficiencies in Goldstein, and the teachings in Niimi are not even properly combinable with the teachings in Goldstein.

² Office Action of December 8, 2003, page 3, lines 3-11.

³ Goldstein at column 26, lines 27-29

First, the teachings in Niimi are not even properly applicable to the teachings in Goldstein. More specifically, Niimi is directed to a telephone type device that can include a detachable memory 20. Niimi discloses utilizing a detachable memory 20 for storing a telephone directory database.⁴ Such teachings in Niimi are completely unrelated to the teachings in Goldstein. That is, the teaching of storing a telephone database in a telephone device in Niimi has no relevance or relation whatsoever to a universal remote control device for a device such as a cable converter or television as in Goldstein. Clearly one of ordinary skill in the art would not see any relevance in utilizing a detachable memory that can store telephone database information to a device such as in Goldstein.

Moreover, the teachings in Niimi do not even overcome the recognized deficiencies in Goldstein.

Niimi also does not teach or suggest any operation in which information stored into the detachable memory 20 is information received from an electronic apparatus being controlled by a control device. Niimi merely discloses being able to utilize different telephone directory databases and different detachable memories 20 to be placed into a telephone. Such teachings have no relevance whatsoever to the claims in which the information stored in the memory is information received from an electronic apparatus being controlled by the control device, such as a remote controller.

Further, Niimi does not disclose any user controlled operation for controlling the data received from the electronic apparatus to be stored into the memory.

In such ways, the teachings in Niimi cannot even overcome the recognized deficiencies in Goldstein.

⁴ Niimi at column 4, lines 53-59.

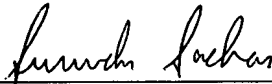
In summary, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of teachings of Goldstein and Niimi is deficient in the following aspects: (1) the relied upon teachings in Goldstein particularly directed to storing favorite channel information contradicts the claimed features; (2) the teachings in Niimi are not properly applicable to the teachings in Goldstein; and (3) the teachings in Niimi do not even overcome the recognized deficiencies in Goldstein.

In such ways, each of the claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the combination of teachings of Goldstein in view of Niimi. Moreover, no teachings in Hirose can overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Goldstein in view of Niimi.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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